

Message Text

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46

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14

RSC-01 OIC-04 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15 DRC-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01

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R 201224Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4165

INFO USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, NL

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH GON--CONSENSUS PROCEDURE
IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

REF: STATE 180945

1. FA OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZA-
TIONS AFFAIRS PROVED BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN DIS-
CUSSING CONSENSUS "VOTING" PROCEDURE WITH AMBASSADOR
SCHAUFLE. ONE AND HALF HOUR SESSION AUG 19 DEVOTED
ENTIRELY THIS SUBJECT.

2. DUTCH EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT AT RECENT USG DEMARCHES
TO EC-9 MEMBERS ON CONSENSUS PROCEDURES, PROFESSING NOT
TO UNDERSTAND US OBJECTIVES. SCHAUFLE EXPALINED THAT
US NOT OPPOSED TO CONSENSUS PROCEDURE WHERE THERE
CLEARLY A TRUE CONSENSUS, BUT THAT WHERE THERE REAL
OBJECTIONS VOTING SHOULD BE USED AND, RECALLING 6TH
SPECIAL SESSION OF GA, SHOULD BE PERMITTED BY MAJORITY.
OTHER POINTS REFTEL STRESSED.

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3. MFA OFFICIALS, LED BY MEIJER, DIRECTOR GENERAL,

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AND RUTTEN, HIS DEPUTY AND SOON TO BE MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS, STRONGLY SUPPORTED USE OF CONSENSUS. RUTTEN SAID THAT GON DID NOT AGREE THAT CONSENSUS WITH STATED RESERVATIONS WAS ANY MORE BINDING (LEGALLY OR MORALLY) THAN ABSTENTION OR NO VOTE WITH EXPLANATION OF VOTE.

4. GON HAD FOUND CONSENSUS PROCEDURE EFFECTIVE IN UNDP AND IN QUESTION OF SECOND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. ESSENCE OF PROCEDURE WAS THAT THERE HAD TO BE SERIOUS NEGOTIATION, A FACT WHICH MEIJER SAID WAS BEING ACCEPTED BY GROUP OF 77. MEIJER DESCRIBED APRIL SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA AS ENDING OF POLARIZATION AND BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS. MEIJER SAID THAT HE REALIZED THAT DUTCH AND AMERICANS HAVE SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES, NOT JUST TACTICAL ONES, ON QUESTION OF USE OF CONSENSUS PROCEDURE. DUTCH BELIEVE THAT GROUP OF 77 HAVE SOUND BASIS FOR THEIR FRUSTRATIONS AND ATTITUDES AND THAT ALTERNATIVE TO CONSENSUS PROCEDURE WAS ONLY TO BE OUT VOTED BY GREAT MAJORITIES. BLODGETT

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